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Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1954

Council Offices,

17 Thoroughfare,

Woodbridge.

August 1955.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1954. This report has been prepared on the lines of previous reports.

During the year under review, the health of the population has maintained a satisfactory level, and the vital statistics are, for a district of this size, not unsatisfactory.

The great problem of sewage disposal is among the most urgent matters for attention and it is hoped that the current year will see some progress.

Housing is another problem which, in view of recent governmental directions will require careful consideration.

I would like to thank the Council and Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H.Inric,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

C.H.Imrie, T.D.,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

G. Ogden, M.R.San.I.

A. STATISTICS.

1. Summary of General Statistics.

Area of District in Acres.....1097.

Number of Inhabited houses (approx)..1961.

Rateable Value of District .....£38, 241.

Product of Penny Rate.....£147. 16s. 5d.

2. Summary of Vital Statistics

1944 to 1954.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Estimated Population	4533	4718	4998	5101	6450	5380	5340	5413	5448	5432	5510
Birth Rate	20.5	17.4	19.4	17.8	13.3	18.7 (99)	19.2 (80)	15.1 (82)	15.6 (85)	16.75 (91)	18.7 (103)
Still Birth Rate	0.22	0.85	0.4	0.19	0.40	nil	0.93 (5)	nil	0.36 (2)	nil	28.3 (3)
Death Rate	17.2	14.6	10.7	13.3	13.2	14.3 (87)	11.3 (80)	12.4 (67)	11.0 (60)	11.9 (65)	13.25 (73)
Infantile Death Rate	43.0	24.4	51.5	21.9	23.2	50.4 (5)	37.5 (5)	48.7 (4)	11.7 (1)	21.9 (2)	67.96 (7)

Note:

Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1000 live births - the other rates are per 1000 population.

The Still Birth rate is the rate per 1000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

Analysis of Vital Statistics.

a. Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	38	57	103
Illegitimate	4	4	

Birth Rate per 1000 population 18.7
Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales 15.2

b. Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	3	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate 29.3 (per 1000 live and still births.
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales 24.0

c. Deaths all Ages

Male	Female	Total
37	36	73

Death Rate per 1000 population 13.25
Death Rate per 1000 population England and Wales 11.3

d. Deaths under 1 Year of Age

Male	Female	Total
2	5	7

Infantile death rate per 1000 live births 67.96
Infantile death rate per 1000 live births England and Wales 25.5

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Causes of Death.

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total 1954.	Total 1953.
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	-	1	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis other	-	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	2	4	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	-	-	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm breast	-	3	3	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	1	6	4
15.	Leukaemia Aleukaemia	-	-	-	1
16.	Diabetes	1	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	5	9	19
18.	Coronary disease angina	4	1	5	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2	1
20.	Other heart disease	6	8	14	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	5	2	7	3
22.	Influenza	-	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	-	1	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	-	2	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	-
27.	Gastritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy childbirth abortion	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	4	5	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8	7
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-	1
34.	All other accidents	-	2	2	1
35.	Suicide	1	-	1	-
36.	Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-	-
		37	36	73	65

Causes of Death under 1year

	Male	Female	Total
Congenital heart disease	1	3	4
Prematurity	1	-	1
Hydrocephalus	-	1	1
Atelectasis	-	1	1
	2	5	7

Comment on Statistics.

The total population has again shown a small increase over the previous year. It will be observed that over the past 10 years the population has increased by almost 1000 persons.

The number of live births in Woodbridge (103) was the highest since the war and gives the very satisfactory rate of 18.7 live births per 1000 population.

The number of still births (3) is rather higher than in previous years, and is rather above the rate for England and Wales.

With regard to causes of death, the most prevalent groups are again those associated with the heart and circulation. These show a small increase over 1953. A small increase is also shown by the group of malignant diseases.

It may be noted that with the exception of one death from pulmonary Tuberculosis there were no fatal cases of infectious diseases during the year.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year of age is somewhat higher than in previous years. It will be seen from the above table that these deaths all derived from prenatal or intranatal causes, and emphasise the importance of antenatal supervision.

Infectious Disease.

Notifications Received.

Disease.	Age. 0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65	age unknown	Total.
Scarlet Fever			2	15	2					1	20
Whooping Cough		2		1							3
Pneumonia				1				1	4		6
Puerperal Pyrexia										1	1
Erysipelas									1		1
Jaundice					3	1					4
											35

Monthly Notifications.

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total.
Scarlet Fever	3	1	7	3	1	4				1			20
Whooping Cough			2		1								3
Pneumonia					4				1		1		6
Puerperal Pyrexia				1									1
Erysipelas				1									1
Jaundice	1	2		1									4
													35

Comment.

Apart from a number of cases of mild Scarlet Fever, which were reported during the first half of the year, there was little Infectious Disease during 1954.

The appearance of Scarlet Fever coincided with a prevalence of tonsillitis and sore throats, which were in all probability expressions of the same infection. The total number of cases was small and as far as could be ascertained there was no common source of infection.

It will be noted that during the year the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register fell from 32 to 28. Of the new cases the majority were young females.

Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register 1st January, 1954.	16	13	2	1	32
Number of cases notified during the year.	1	2	-	1	4
Number restored to Register.	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise than by Notification.	-	-	-	-	-
Number removed from Register.	1	7	-	-	8
Number remaining on Register at 31st December, 1954.	16	8	2	2	28

Details of Cases added to Register.

Age	Sex	Occupation	Location of Disease
18	F	Shop Assistant	Lungs.
26	F	Domestic Worker	Lungs.
22	F	Housewife	Cervical Glands.
34	M	Shop Manager	Lungs.

Cases Removed from Register.

3 - Recovered.

4 - Moved to another District.

1 - Died.

Sanitation.

The methods of disposal of refuse remains more or less the same as in previous years. Dry refuse is dealt with by incineration and controlled tipping. This is an adequate method of disposal when properly carried out, but it requires close supervision at all times.

There are in the District 815 pail closets. A night soil collection disposes of the contents outside our boundaries when it is used for agricultural purposes, This method, although it has certain advantages, needsvery close supervision to avoid giving offence.

The existing water carried sewage system in the town discharges into the River after sedimentation. The sewerage, although of uncertain age appears to be for the most part reasonably sound but some lengths need replacement. A tendancy for certain of the gulley traps to become unsealed in warm dry weather leads to occasional complaint.

Woodbridge and Melton Joint Drainage Scheme.

There was during the past year little real advance made in the direction of the Woodbridge and Melton Joint Drainage Scheme. I have in previous reports laboured the urgent need for this scheme, and it is with regret that one has to record that up to the end of the year progress has been negligible.

Unfortunately as each succeeding year passes the population of Woodbridge increases and the need grows greater, but the estimated cost of the work increases even more rapidly.

Sanitary Inspector.

As the Council is aware the appointment of Mr. Ogden as Sanitary Inspector is combined with that of Surveyor to the Council. This type of appointment is to my mind not entirely satisfactory in all cases, as the urgent duties of the Surveyor in his multifarious spheres of responsibility tend at times to crowd out the routine work of Sanitary Inspection of the district.

During the past year or two the calls upon the time of the Surveyor have increased very considerably and this has consequently lessened the time available for purely sanitary duties.

I feel therefore, that the time has arrived when the Council should consider the question of assistance asthe situation is now far from satisfactory.

Housing.

During 1954 an important piece of legislation relating to housing was passed by Parliament. This was the Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954.

The main objects of this act were -

(1) To secure a review of the housing situation in the District and requiring the Authority to report to the Ministry on their proposals for dealing with slum clearance.

(2) To promote the removal of all slum property either by demolition or clearance orders.

(3) To secure the rehabilitation of substandard property to render it fit for a reasonable period of years.

(4) To encourage landlords to spend money on repairs to substandard property and permitting under certain conditions an increase in rent.

The general effect of this act is to authorise and encourage Local Authorities to tackle the problem of slum and substandard dwellings, which owing to the exigencies of the war had been permitted to remain in use.

The task of dealing with housing in Woodbridge will be formidable owing to the nature of the town. Much of the property, especially around the central parts of the town consists of collections of old and badly sited houses, lacking in many cases the amenities of proper water and drainage and in some cases much below the acceptable standard of housing.

Although many of these properties present an interesting and attractive facade and give character to the streets it is unfortunate that in some cases they are structurally beyond rehabilitation from the economic point of view.

A considerable handicap however, to the production of any schemes for dealing with the housing problem in Woodbridge is lack of technical assistance in the department of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. This matter I have noted in another part of this report.

FOOD

Food Premises in District.

Bakers 7
Butchers 8
Confectioners 9
Dairies 5
Fish Mongers 4
Fish & Chip Shops 4
Grocers 7
Green Grocers 12
General Stores 8
Pork Butchers 2
Hotels & Cafes 12

Food Inspections.

The following items were inspected and condemned during the year -

Tinned food.

6 tins soup
43 tins fruit
39 tins meat
4 tins coffee
41 tins fish paste
10 tins spaghetti
17 tins vegetables
12 tins milk
2 tins tomatoes
1 tin fish

Meat.

210 lbs. Beef
120 lbs. Pork
200 lbs. Bacon

Fish.

68 lbs. Fish (various kinds)
30 crabs

Other Food.

28 lbs. frozen egg
26 lbs. cheese
7½ lbs. jam
10 lbs. biscuits

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

NEW REGULATIONS.

S.I.No. 674. The Public Health (Aircraft)(Amendment) Regulations, 1954.

Came into operation 30th September, 1954.
These Regulations extend to the armed forces of all countries to which the Visiting Forces Act, 1952, applies the exemption from the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1952, already accorded to H.M. Armed Forces.

S.I. No. 1267. The Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk)(Amendment) Regulations 1954.

Came into operation 30th September, 1954.
These Regulations amend the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949, as amended, by making special provision for herds kept in such areas in relation to (1) the requirements to be satisfied on an application for a producer's licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk produced from such herds and (2) the special conditions subject to which such a licence is granted.

S.I. No. 1268. The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Regulations 1954.

Came into operation 30th September, 1954, and revokes the Milk and Dairies (Amendment)Regulations, 1953(d).

S.I. 1280. The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)Regulations 1954.

Came into operation 1st October, 1954.
These regulations re-enact, from 1st October, 1954 certain provisions of the Protection of Animals Act, 1911 (with respect to knackers' yards) and of the Slaughter of Animals acts, 1933 and 1951 (with respect to slaughter-houses and knackers' yards) which are repealed by the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

Action under Various Acts & Regulations

1954

1. Factories Act 1937

	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories not employing power	6	1	-	-
Factories employing power	36	7	-	-
	42	8	-	-

Outworkers - nil on Register.

11. National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 was considered necessary during the year.